

# ECHO IRELAND

Journal of the  
Irish Radio Transmitters Society  
January/February 2006

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The views expressed in Echo Ireland do  
not necessarily represent the views of the  
Society or the Editor

**Next deadline March 31st**

## EJ2MT are the Leading DXpedition Station & 3rd overall in the IOTA Contest 2005



Front Row: Jim EI8GS, Wilf M0WLF, Alan G3SXV, Geoff G4FKA, Neil EI3JE  
Middle : Andy M1EBV, Pete G4CLA, Ger EI8HT, Billy EI7FJ, Steve G3ZVW  
Third Row: Donough EI1506, Denis EI6HB, Dave EI4BZ  
Back : Chris G0HFX, Matt M0MAT, Tom EI5ASB, Mannix EI5HB, Jerry EI6BT

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**Lisburn, Co. Antrim**  
**Saturday, 11 March 2006**  
**Lagan Valley Hospital, Lisburn**

**Limerick Rally**  
**Sunday 12th March 2006**  
**Greenhills Hotel, Limerick**

**IRTS AGM 2006**  
**Vienna Woods Hotel, Cork**  
**Dinner on Saturday**  
**Rally & AGM on Sunday**  
**April 22/23rd 2006**

**Mid-Ulster Rally**  
**Oxford Island, May 21st**

**Cork Rally - Blarney**  
**September 24th 2006**

**Waterford Rally**  
**October 15th 2006**

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9 Series Calls:	Dave Deane EI9FBB	086-3909373	<i>ei9fbb@oceanfree.net</i>

## News Bulletins and Readers

<b>Sunday</b>				
Dublin	1100	7.043	SSB	Colm EI3H, Sean EI7CD, Gerry EI8CC
Wicklow	1130	3.680	SSB (as Gaeilge)	Paddy EI7GK, Danny EI6GS
Dublin	1145	145.525	FM	Sean EI5GH, Brendan EI8IB
Dublin	1200	3.650	SSB	As 1100
Tipperary	2030	145.450	FM	Tommy EI7IT, John EI2JB, Andy EI5JF
Dublin	2130	145.525	FM	As 1145
<b>Monday</b>				
Cork	2000	145.750	FM	Con EI7DJB, Vincent EI7HN
Limerick	2000	145.725	FM	Brian EI9AL, Tony EI2AW
Louth	2000	145.675		Peter EI4HX, Thos EI2JD
Galway	2000	145.625		Aengus EI4ABB, Richard EI5GC
<b>Tuesday</b>				
Waterford	2130	145.650	FM	John EI8JA, Gareth EI7FZB

## New IRTS Web Site

A will web site be launched shortly  
The new site will incorporate photographs to illustrate amateur radio activities; the photographs used will be rotated on a random basis.

The Webmaster, Joe Ryan EI7GY, is looking for suitable photographs for this purpose: please forward amateur radio related photographs to him at "jryan@iol.ie".

## Club Details

All member club secretaries were asked recently to provide an update of their club details, including meeting venue and dates, activities and web site address.

Many thanks to those club secretaries who have already responded: those who have yet to respond are asked to do so as soon as possible.

Any club secretary who has not received a letter from the Society about this should contact Joe Ryan EI7GY "jryan@iol.ie".

## From the Editor.....

Thanks for all the positive comments following the experiment with a colour cover in the last issue.

The newsletter is currently produced using Microsoft Publisher and this software is not very suitable for colour work.

Steps are being taken to upgrade and we will return to a colour cover in the near future.

Thanks to all contributors and please keep the material coming in.

73

Dave EI4BZ

## Dubus Magazine

IRTS has been appointed as the Irish distributor for the DUBUS Magazine, a quarterly magazine for VHF, UHF and Microwave enthusiasts.

This is a publication that no serious VHF/UHF/Microwave DXer should be without.

It is mailed directly to subscribers from the publishers in Germany.

The annual subscription remains unchanged at €22.00 for 2006 and should be forwarded to:

Dave Moore, EI4BZ,  
Dooneen, Carrigtwohill, Co. Cork.

## Silent Key John Kenny EI4FC



It is with deep sadness that we learned of the death on February 16th of John Kenny, EI4FC, Lattin, Tipperary after a long illness.

John was a carpenter by trade, but was also an inventor, experimenter and a great craftsman.

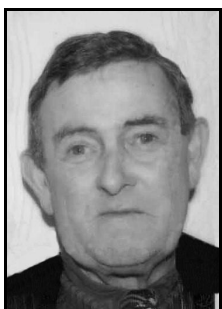
As a very keen experimenter in amateur radio he had a great passion for DX on the 80-metre band for which he designed, constructed and erected many different types of antennae to suit the varying changes in propagation conditions over a number of sun spot cycles. John was famous for his big masts and big aerials and his big signals of the LF bands. He will be especially missed by the low band fraternity.

To his wife Kathleen and family members Jacqueline, Michael, John Paul, Susanne, Aidan and Cathriona, we extend our sincere sympathy.

May he rest in peace.  
M.H.

## Silent Key Tom Lohan EI6FD

It is with deep sadness that we announce the death of Tom Lohan EI6FD on 19/12/05. We send sympathies to his family. May he rest in peace. Ar dheis De go raibh a anam dilis.



## Silent Key Jim Gaffney EI8W



It was with deep sadness that we learned of the passing of James Gaffney EI8W.

Jim, from Clonmel in Co. Tipperary, died on Christmas night last. He was born in Dublin on 14<sup>th</sup> January 1924 and in his teens he joined the army in the Curragh in Kildare for about 6 years followed by 7 years in Shannon as a Radio Officer. In his late 20s he moved to the then Rhodesia, now Zambia and worked as a radio officer with BKS which later amalgamated with British Airlines. He then returned to England and took private flying lessons to become a pilot with British Airlines,

In 1989 he retired and returned to Ireland and got his old call sign restored to him.

He was involved in the setting up of the Tipperary Amateur Radio Group and later held the post of Chairman and was very active in all aspects of radio communications. He became very active in the Worked All Ireland Awards nets and was a regular on the Sunday 'Irish Hour' on 15m.

He was an extremely respected experimenter held in the highest esteem judging by the amount of national and international messages of sympathy received.

Married for 44 years, he was a devoted husband and father to his wife Pauline, son Alan, daughter Linda. We extend to them our sincerest sympathy.

May he rest in peace.

## Silent Key Aidan Brodigan EI4IG



It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of Aidan Brodigan EI4IG of Bettystown, Co. Meath on November 21st 2005, after a long illness.

Aidan suffered lots of pain over his last two years but he suffered in silence, keeping his suffering to himself. His family and friends were unaware of just how ill he was.

Aidan was a member of Skerries Radio Club for many years. He was also a very talented musician and was known far and wide in the music scene. Many times he brought his keyboard to the clubhouse and he was never caught out with a tune he didn't know. He was a very keen Morse man and the ink was barely dry on his three letter callsign when he sat and passed his Morse test.

He loved the HF bands and said he worked the world using SSB on the CB bands and now he would do it on CW and he did!

To his loving family and friends we offer our deepest sympathy.

May he rest in peace.

*From all at Skerries Radio Club.*

## Silent Key Jim Fitzgerald EI8FB

We are sad to report on the passing of Jim Fitzgerald EI8FB of Tipperary Town. Jim was dedicated CW man. We extend our sympathy to his family.

## **IRTS AGM Weekend in Cork**

Final arrangements are now almost complete for the IRTS AGM Dinner and Rally at the Vienna Woods Hotel in Cork on April 22/23rd.

The Vienna Woods Hotel is located on the eastern side of Cork City just off the Glanmire roundabout at the city side of Glanmire village.

The weekends activities follow the usual format with the dinner on the Saturday evening and the rally and AGM on Sunday.

Anyone intending to attend the AGM Dinner should contact Dave EI4BZ to reserve a seat. The cost is €30.00. Please do not leave it to the last minute as the organisers need a reasonably accurate forecast of numbers attending. Last years dinner was a great success and this years should be even better.

For those wishing to stay in the hotel overnight, only double rooms are available and these can only be booked through Dave EI4BZ on 087-6290574 at a cost of €110.00 per room with breakfast.

However, rooms are also available at the neighbouring Ibis Hotel at a cost of €9.00 for a single room and €9.00 for a double room. Breakfast costs €8.50. The telephone number for the Ibis Hotel is 021-4354354.

Rooms are also available at the nearby John Barleycorn Hotel at a cost of €45.00 for a single and €85.00 for a double room including a full Irish Breakfast. The telephone number here is 021-4821499.

The Vienna Woods Hotel is an ideal venue with lots of parking. For those travelling on the day, breakfast will be available in the restaurant until 1100 and tea and coffee will be available at the bar. A carvery lunch will be served at the hotel.

The doors will open at 1100 which will allow plenty of time to pick up the bar-gains before the IRTS AGM which starts at 1430.

Enquiries to Finbarr EI1CS on 021-4346622 or Dave EI4BZ on 087-6290574.

## **Irish Radio Transmitters Society Annual General Meeting April 23rd 2006 Vienna Woods Hotel, Glanmire, Cork**

Members are hereby notified that the Annual General Meeting of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society will be held at 1430 on Sunday April 23rd at the Vienna Woods Hotel, Glanmire, Cork.

Rule 23.1 requires that the committee shall, at least 28 days notice prior to the Annual General Meeting, send to all paid up members a list showing the nominees for the offices of President and Vice-President and eleven committee positions.

The following are the Committee's nominations;

President	Fr. Finbarr Buckley EI1CS
Vice-President	Paul Martin EI2CA

### **Committee**

EI2JD	Thos Caffrey	EI7CD	Sean Nolan
EI3IX	Joe Fadden	EI7IG	John Ronan
EI4BZ	Dave Moore	EI8BP	Seamus McCague
EI4HX	Peter Grant	EI8IU	Brian Canning
EI5DI	Paul O'Kane	EI8JA	John McCarthy
EI6IB	Fergus Millar		

The names of other members eligible and willing to serve as President, Vice-President or as Committee members shall be added to the list upon receipt of nominations in writing, by any ten paid-up ordinary members in the case of a nominee for the Presidency or Vice-Presidency, or by any two paid-up ordinary members in the case of a nominee for any of the eleven committee positions. (Rule 23.2)

See Page 26 of the current Year Book for all the rules relating to elections.

## ***IRTS AGM Weekend Vienna Woods Hotel, Glanmire, Cork***

***Saturday 22nd April 2005 at 8.30 p.m.***

### ***Annual Dinner***

***Tickets €30.00***

***Sunday 23rd April 2005.***

***Rally opening at 1100***

***Annual General Meeting at 1430.***

**Enquiries to Finbarr EI1CS on 021-4346622 or  
Dave EI4BZ on 087-6290574.**

# Radio Theory Examination - January 2006

The culmination of many years of discussion and negotiation arrived on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2006 when the first Multiple Choice Radio Theory Examination was held in the Dublin offices of ComReg. Aside from being the first Multiple Choice paper, it was also the first time that IRTS carried full responsibility for the organising of the event and the setting and marking of the papers.

Nineteen candidates (from 15 counties) presented themselves for examination – a surprisingly large number bearing in mind the time of year and the short preparation period available to those sitting. A major effort was made to ensure that the results were available to all candidates in as short a period as possible.

Thanks are due to ComReg for their co-operation with that effort and arising from this, all notifications were in the post within two weeks of the exam date.

The argument about the merits of multiple choice over the traditional essay type examination will always be with us. There is a widely held view that multiple choice provides a better chance of success even with a higher pass mark. There is also a belief that it is easier to tick boxes than to write 200 words and draw diagrams.

Whatever about these views and beliefs being true, what is undeniable is that a multiple choice examination tests a wider range of the syllabus. This became apparent in the recent examination. Faced with 60 questions and no choices, the candidate needed to have covered the syllabus well to be sure of making the pass mark.

In the event, thirteen of the nineteen candidates passed the examination. This represented a Pass rate of 68%, not too far from the 71% achieved in the last of the Essay-type examinations.

All thirteen showed a good grasp of the subject matter and will no doubt make good and responsible amateur radio operators in due course.

Although there were some papers that achieved marks up toward the 90s, no paper achieved 100%.

One of the critical issues with this examination is that it consists of three Sections and to pass, a candidate must pass not only in the overall, but in each of the



Some of the candidates awaiting the start of the historic first multiple choice examination run by IRTS at the ComReg offices on January 18th 2006.

three Sections. Section A (Elementary Theory of Radiocommunications) is the longest, with thirty-five questions. Section B (National and International Rules and Operating Procedures) has fourteen and Section C (Safety and Electromagnetic Compatibility) eleven questions. It was disappointing to note that of the six candidates who failed in the examination, a number reached the overall pass mark but failed in one or more of the individual sections.

An examination of the candidates' performance on individual questions indicated some unexpected anomalies. For instance, in Section A more than half the candidates failed to identify the characteristics of a Class A amplifier. In the same Section, a similar number of candidates failed to answer correctly that a CW Transmitter should ideally be keyed at the Buffer stage.

Question 12 asked for a calculation of the resonant frequency of an illustrated circuit. Again the majority of papers showed an incorrect answer.

An admittedly rather difficult question gave the specifications of a quarter wave stub made of coaxial cable and asked for the approximate frequency to which it had been cut.

The majority of candidates also answered this question incorrectly.

The examination paper featured one question regarding the operation of an FM transmitter. Only five of the answer papers showed the correct answer.

The majority of candidates also incorrectly answered a question on the use of an oscilloscope to determine the peak envelope power of an SSB Transmitter.

In general, higher scores were achieved in Sections B and C. However, two questions here were poorly answered. Question 46 related to the IARU Region 1 band plan for 18 MHz and Question 48 asked for the maximum power permitted when operating mobile on 7.050 MHz.

Only three candidates ticked the correct answer in the first case and five in the second instance.

The number of candidates presenting themselves for this first multiple choice examination is a matter of considerable satisfaction to IRTS, as is the ease with which the multiple choice format has taken over from the long established essay format.

With classes now beginning to reconvene in various parts of the country and with a new teaching template under development, the prospects for an increase in the number of new entrants to the hobby look much brighter.



Derek O'Reilly of ComReg who provided the facilities and Sean Nolan EI7CD from IRTS who supervised the examination.

# HF Happenings

with Dave Deane EI9FBB

Hi all.

Welcome to the 1st. edition of 'HF HAPPENINGS' which I hope will be of interest to the most of you. The aim of this feature is to publish the 'Interesting' or 'Unusual' happenings on the HF bands.

A little bit late getting started on this one, so apologies to all, but at time of writing, the recent 600N DXpedition to Somalia has just gone QRT- hope lots of 'EI' callsigns are in the log. QSL via I2YSB.

The 5H1C DXpedition group on Tanzania's Zanzibar Island (OC-032) are also getting ready to pack up, but are going to leave one station QRV until they go QRT on 3/2/06. This one can be QSLed via F5TVG

Some surprising changes were released on the '2006 Most Wanted DXCC List'- the top 25 are as follows:

- |    |       |                             |
|----|-------|-----------------------------|
| 1  | BS7H  | Scarborough Reef            |
| 2  | VU7   | Lakshadweep                 |
| 3  | P5    | North Korea                 |
| 4  | 3Y/P  | Peter 1 Island              |
| 5  | 7O    | Yemen                       |
| 6  | KP1   | Navassa Isl.                |
| 7  | KP5   | Desecho Isl.                |
| 8  | 3Y/B  | Bouvet Isl.                 |
| 9  | FR/G  | Glorioso Isl.               |
| 10 | VU4   | Andaman & Nicobar Isl.      |
| 11 | KH7K  | Kure Island                 |
| 12 | ZS8   | Prince Edward & Marion Isl. |
| 13 | VH0/H | Heard Isl.                  |
| 14 | FT5W  | Crozet Isl.                 |
| 15 | FT5Z  | St. Paul & Amsterdam Isl.   |
| 16 | SV/A  | Mount Athos.                |
| 17 | VP8/O | South Orkney                |
| 18 | ZL8   | Kermadec Isl.               |
| 19 | VK9W. | Willis Isl.                 |
| 20 | VP8/S | South Sandwich Isl.         |
| 21 | KH5   | Jarvis & Palmyra Isl.       |
| 22 | ZL9   | Auckland & Campbell Isl.    |
| 23 | PY0S  | St. Peter & Paul Rocks.     |
| 24 | KH0/M | Maple Isl.                  |
| 25 | FR/T  | Tromelin Isl.               |

Hopefully conditions will be good during the 3Y0X dx-pedition to Peter 1 Island, so this one will definitely drop down the list for next years report, as over 100,000 QSOs are targeted.

KH7K- Kure Island is expected to fall rapidly as the QSL cards from the Sept/October 2005 K7C operation have been mailed at time of print.

Some good news for those still needing 'VU4'- Andaman & Nicobar Islands will be QRV again by many many stations during their Hamfest in April 18th to 20th.

Since the end of 2004, NIAR has been working very closely with their Government officials to pull this one off.

It is anticipated that they may well allow a longer operation from here, as they now realise the demand from this 'Rare one'.



*We welcome Dave EI9FBB as a regular contributor on HF matters. He has been licensed since January 2004 and has already worked 211 DXCC entities to date with 181 of them confirmed.*

*Dave sat and passed his theory examination way back in 1989 but waited 15 years to apply for his licence.*

*Please give him your support  
EI4BZ*

NIAR are hoping operations from 2 to 4 weeks will be allowed, and are also pushing for all future licences to be more easily obtained.

Watch out for a combined effort from Paupa New Guinean hams to operate Kranket Island 9OC-2580 from March 17th to 20th. They will be using the call P29K & all QSOs to be QSLed via LZ1JZ.

Also around the same time, Benin is expected to be QRV from March 15th to 30th.

PA3EWP will be signing TY5WP, IK1PMR using TY1MR, K2LEO as TY2LEO & GM4FTM will be as TY4TW.

This DXpedition is sponsored by the GMDX, CDXC & BARTG groups.

A group of German ops hope to operate from Vanuatu (YJ) from 24th FEB to 11th March if all goes to plan. This will be an all mode operation, however emphasis will be on the low bands.

DJ7EO - DL3XX - DL5LYM & DL9NDS will be collecting their callsigns upon arrival on 23rd February.

QSL information is yet to be released.

Conditions on the higher HF bands have been relatively poor so far in 2006, but despite this, the DX is still out there - A few extracts from my 2006 log are as follows:

SV2ASP/A	Mount Athos	20m	SSB
3B9FR	Rodriguez	10m	SSB
VQ9JC	Chagos	20m	SSB
DU6BG	Phillipines	20m	SSB
KG4SB	Guantanamo Bay	20m	CW
A92BND	Bahrain	15m	SSB
VP2VQ	Br. Virgin Islands	20m	SSB
EL2PM	Liberia	20m	SSB
NA1SS	Int. Space Station	2m	FM
TF0GX	Iceland	20m	CW
6O0N	Somalia	15m	SSB
5H1C	Tanzania	20m	SSB

If any other reader has anything interesting or unusual to report, they are encouraged to send on their extracts also, so they can get a mention in the next issue.

That's about all for this issue folks, keep listening.

73 de EI9FBB

# What a lucky man I am – to be a Radio Ham

By Bernie EI6AX

I write these few lines (a) to encourage young people to become involved in Amateur Radio and (b) to let them know how much amateur radio has meant to me.

My story is very similar to that of many of the older generation of hams. I was in infant class in school when the war started and my father had one of the few radios in this area – a little “His Master’s Voice” set, with wet and dry batteries.

Every Saturday we took the wet battery to the local garage to have it charged.

We were usually banished from the living room while the war news was on because we couldn’t provide the required silence for the news to be heard. I replaced the short antenna with a long wire – out the window and tied on to the handle of a pike in the back garden. It made a wonderful improvement and the praise I got helped to make me more interested!

Later, an old couple living in our village got an “Alba” set and on a number of occasions when it stopped working, I was called to have “a look”.. The problem was always the same – corroded spades to the wet battery! When cleaned it took off as new and I was hailed as an electronic wizard!! Little things can have a lasting effect on the young mind and I gradually grew more curious about radio.

I had mixed luck with efforts to build Crystal sets and only when I succeeded in adding on a valve did I get good amplification. One such set brought in many stations and I remember boasting to my brother that it was so good Radio Moscow came belting in. He brought me down to earth quickly! “Don’t mind Radio Moscow – can you get Radio Eireann?” I had to ad-

mit I could not!

The Radio Eireann signal was struggling to reach the Beara Peninsula in those days!

When we got a new Pye set with many short-wave bands I often listened to the Light houses exchanging information daily at midday.

The Bull Rock Light house is almost visible from my home and was of course stronger than all the others. I found a very simple diagram of a transmitter which could be constructed from old radio parts and decided to have a go at putting it together.

I made it for the Light-house frequency (1.666 MHz) and got the crystal from Henry’s Radio, London, for seven shillings and six pence.

I couldn’t get a modulation transformer and for a microphone I used a carbon telephone insert which I connected in series with the cathode lead of the 6v6 output valve.

One Saturday morning I decided to give it a try.

As soon as the Bull Rock finished I started shouting into the microphone “Hello Bull Rock, hello Bull Rock! Can you hear me out there?”

My heart pounded when the Bull Rock came back – “What shore station is calling the Bull?” I jumped round the place like the captain of an all-Ireland winning team!

I had not yet heard of amateur radio and the Bull Rock remained my only contact for a number of years. Then one day a handsome young man on holiday from Milford Haven saw my make-shift antenna and called in. He told me he was a Radio Ham and his call was GW3MOP – Lionel D Watts – and he had a war-surplus Tx and Rx in the booth of his car (I think



he called it a B2) He was anxious to have a contact with me but when he saw my only frequency was 180 meters he said his licence did not allow him transmit on that freq.!

However he told me all about ham radio and gave me some literature and when he left we had a “cross-band” QSO. I listened on 80m and he listened on 180m.!

What a joy learning the Morse code and getting my licence has brought to me! Over the years amateur radio has put me in touch with experts while radio bounded ahead at an unbelievable rate.

I have fond memories of expeditions with Region 4 stalwarts like Brian 6X, Owen 6BX, Mick 4R, John 6AH, Paddy 3AV, Tony 2AW etc. and enjoy a life-long friendship with my Cork contemporaries like John 3BF, John 6AK, John 7V, John 7BA, Tomás 7AV, Dave 4BZ etc. Some too shine like amateur radio beacons in the Capital like Con 9V, Jim 2BB, Colm 3h, Seán 4GK, the late Tom 9U, and the man whose voice is synonymous with amateur radio Seán 7CD.

If you are interested in acquiring knowledge in science and technology, if you like turning theory into practice, if you would wish to find out how people live in distant lands, or if you simply enjoy chatting with interesting courteous people, ---

Become a Radio Ham!

## Student Corner Correction

In the November/December 2005 issue of Echo Ireland an error crept into the “Student Corner” column when the following statement appeared:

“The 60% pass requirement applies to the examination as a whole and it is not necessary to pass each, or any, of the individual sections”.

This statement is incorrect and it arose through a misunderstanding.

The correct position is that candidates for the Radio Theory Examination are required not only to achieve an overall pass mark of 60% but to obtain at least a similar mark in each of the three individual sections.

IRTS extends its apologies to all concerned for the error.

## Theory Classes in Mayo

Theory classes will commence in Co. Mayo soon. The classes will be held in Ballyvary on Saturdays.

Anyone wishing to participate should contact Terry Ebdon on 087 130 8560 immediately.

The classes are organised by The Mayo Radio Experimenters Network.

## Trophy Returns

All IRTS Trophies should be returned to the Society as soon as possible.

Please get them to Peter Grant EI4HX or to any committee member.

Peter can be contacted by phone on 087-9772904 or by email at:

ei4hexperimental@eircom.net



## Irish Air Corps ARC EI2V

Members of the Irish Air Corps ARC EI2V took part in the recent EI/GI 80m contest. I would like to let your readers know of a recent new antenna design, which we used during the contest. Its known as the EH (supplied by Martin Lynch UK) antenna and is a compact unit designed for single band use.

We had it mounted at 30 feet and feed directly with  $1/4\lambda$  of RG213 cable. The power was 100 watts from the clubs HF rig, an Icom IC-746.

We were surprised with the number of counties we pulled in during the contest, 23 in all, with 53 QSO's in the logbook. Included in the QSO's were 1 Scottish and 5 English stations. Not bad for such a short antenna.

Lots of information can be found on the Internet, good and bad, about this antenna.

This tubular antenna is only 2.48 metres long, 8 cm in diameter and weights 4.9 Kg, a truly portable antenna.

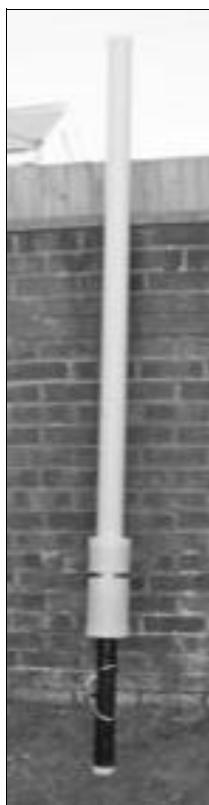
Did anybody else use this antenna during this contest?

Have other experimenters used this type of antenna for other bands? I would like to receive your observations if you used one.

Thanks to all the stations who called in.

As a once off operation it apparently worked for us.

Best 73  
Paddy EI1DG  
ei1dg@eircom.net



## 80m Counties Contest

A very successful 80 metres counties contest was held on bank holiday Monday January 2nd last.

Participation exceeded all expectations and almost all counties were activated on the day.

Counties not active appear to be Donegal and Sligo with very limited participation from Kildare and Wexford.

At least one station made over 100 QSOs but activity on CW was reported as disappointing.

There were four portable stations heard, EI7GY/p in Offaly, EI3JB/p in Kilkenny, EI6JK/p in Wicklow and EI2MRG/p in Mayo.

Competition in the SSB section should be very close and we look forward to the results being announced at the AGM in Cork.

Thanks to all the stations who participated especially the great turnout of stations in GI.

## IRTS Committee Report

The last meeting of the IRTS Committee was held in the Montague Hotel in Portlaoise on Saturday January 14th at 1100. 12 committee members attended.

Votes of sympathy were extended to the families of the late EI6FD, EI8W and EI4IG.

Committee meetings follow a standard format where all officers present a report of their activities to the meeting.

The main business of this meeting was the nominating of a President, vice President and eleven committee members for the 2006/2007 committee.

The committee are obliged by rule to make these nominations but of course further nominations can be accepted as per rule 23.2.

The committee nominations can be seen on page 5 of this issue.

It is pleasing to see a good geographical spread amongst the nominated members with three from Dublin, two each from counties Cork, Leitrim, Louth and Waterford, one each from Galway and Meath.

The first multiple choice theory examination which was held on January 18th was also discussed and Sean Nolan, who is administering it reported that interest was high. Nineteen sat the exam and a report appears elsewhere in this issue.

The holding of this exam brought to fruition many years effort by the society. A huge number of man hours has been expended by several members, initially in getting the proposal together, then formulating the question bank and sample papers and in discussions with the regulating authority, ComReg.

The society is grateful to ComReg for their co-operation in bring this to a successful conclusion.

The forthcoming AGM being hosted by Cork Radio Club was also high on the agenda. A comprehensive written report had been circulated to members prior to the meeting and all arrangements are well in place.

The weekend will follow the usual format with the dinner on Saturday night and the rally and meeting on the Sunday at the Vienna Woods Hotel.

Another issue high on the agenda is the 75th jubilee of the society in 2007.

A once off contest will be held over the last weekend in September 2007 and details will be announced shortly.

It will have a unique format that should guarantee widespread interest worldwide. See the preliminary announcement on page 14 of this issue.

A DXpedition to South Africa is also a possibility subject to sufficient interest being shown by members.

Again details elsewhere in this issue and a presentation will be made on the proposed trip at the Limerick Rally.

IARU business included several votes on constitutional changes which could not be carried out at the recent conference in Davos as there were insufficient members present to make up a quorum. The motions were administrative in nature dealing with rules of membership etc.

The next meeting will be on April 1st at 1100 in the Montague Hotel in Portlaoise.

Clubs are entitled to send observers.



# GB3VHF – A new replacement beacon designed for the 21<sup>st</sup> century

After several decades of excellent service, the 144.430 MHz beacon located at Wrotham in Kent (JO01DH), was replaced on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2006 with a new state of the art beacon incorporating several new RF and digital features. The beacon which is the result of a year of design and construction by a team of four radio amateurs, provides facilities some of which have never been used in amateur radio beacons before.

At the heart of the beacon is a direct digital synthesiser designed, constructed and programmed by Andy Talbot G4JNT. This generates a signal directly at 72MHz and is L/C and crystal filtered and doubled to 144MHz. before passing to the PA.

The DDS clock source will be locked to GPS with a short time-constant phase-locked loop, and will normally maintain an accuracy to within a few parts in  $10^{-9}$  over a period of a few tens of seconds, and better than  $10^{-12}$  long term. The frequency of the CW carrier (mark) being exactly on 144.430000MHz.

The most important feature of the new beacon is that by using the DDS, the beacon can be programmed to transmit new modes. As before, the beacon sends its callsign and locator in Morse, but using A1A (on /off) keying rather than FSK.

To enable the beacon to be monitored at extreme ranges, the beacon additionally transmits it's callsign and locator using WSJT JT65B mode.

The GPS also provides for the precise timing of the keying sequence, such that the JT65B sequence will start at every even minute past the hour for 48 seconds duration.

The Morse sequence will commence at the start of each odd minute past the hour and last for 13 seconds.

At the start of each odd minute 30 seconds past the hour, at a precisely timed point, 140 microseconds after the UTC one-second reference as signalled by the GPS receiver, the phase of the carrier is reversed, 28 times in total to fill up the 30 second time slot. The result is a 1 bit/second pattern of 101010..... The BPSK mode has been incorporated to allow users to become familiar with using precise timing methods to assist in experimentation with coherent signal recovery, to

measure time of flight information and propagation testing.

In the event of GPS lock being lost, the beacon will suspend the JT65B sequence and replace it with the Morse sequence, until such time as GPS lock is re-established.



PA190014

The New GB3VHF 144MHz Beacon on test in Chris G0FDZ's shack.

The RF section which was designed by Sam Jewell G4DDK, relies on a Mitsubishi RA30H1317 power amplifier module for the PA.

The use of extensive RF L/C and crystal filtering throughout, ensures that the beacon complies with the most stringent CEPT regulations for transmitters operating in the VHF frequency range. The beacon has undergone exhaustive tests in this respect. The RF power output of the beacon is 30 Watts.

The power supplies delivering both 12 & 24 volts for the entire beacon, have been designed and built by David Bowman G0MRF who has ensured that generous component under rating and spare current capacity will help to provide the high reliability needed.

Over-sized heat sinks mean that no fan cooling is required, whatever the ambient temperature.

Chris Whitmarsh G0FDZ, the beacon keeper, integrated the various modules and units, and produced the metalwork and housing facilities for the beacon. Ease of maintenance was very much in mind when designing the beacon, so as to ensure minimal outage times when any faults occur.

This new beacon hardware is only the fourth to be employed, since the beacon first became operational in 1959 at the end of International Geo-physical Year (IGY).

The beacon antennas which comprise of two 3 element yagis beaming 288 and 348 degrees and located approximately 48 metres AGL are unchanged, and have been employed since the mid 1980's when the current mast replaced the original. The base of the mast is approximately 213 metres ASL.

Software to decode the JT65B is easily obtainable on the Internet at the WSJT website <http://pulsar.princeton.edu/~joe/K1JT/>.

To decode the JT65B, tune the carrier to obtain a tone of 1500Hz with the receiver set to USB, and the dial frequency reading 144.4285. The JT65 will then be tuned in correctly.

The group would particularly like to hear of reception reports of the beacon from all corners of the British Isles and from mainland Europe.

This beacon has been financed by the four participants only, but the team gratefully acknowledge the donation of some parts for building the beacon from Russ G4PBP, Derek G3GRO, Dave at Quart-slab Ltd and Simon G3LQR.

For details of the beacon DDS please see Andy Talbot's website at [www.scrbg.org/g4jnt/](http://www.scrbg.org/g4jnt/), and for more information and photos of the beacon please see the beacon website at [www.g0afh.com/gb3vhf/](http://www.g0afh.com/gb3vhf/)

Chris Whitmarsh G0FDZ  
(Beacon Keeper GB3VHF)  
Andy Talbot G4JNT  
Sam Jewell G4DDK  
David Bowman G0MRF

## Outgoing QSL Bureau

Please mail your cards directly to the Outgoing Bureau Manager

**Anthony Baldwin EI8JK,  
Rathlin, Kilcrohane,  
Co. Cork.  
[ei8jk@amsat.org](mailto:ei8jk@amsat.org)**

Cards mailed to P.O. Box 462 will be delayed.

# EI/DL1YMK Dxpedition

## First 1296 MHz EME QSOs from EI

*This is the story told by Michael DL1YMK of his trip to South West Ireland during August 2005 to operate moon bounce on 1296 MHz. He was helped in his endeavours by his wife Monika.*

### August 2005

As first skeds were scheduled by Joe, **K1RQG**, for the 21<sup>st</sup> of August, I immediately began to set up the 4.1 m stressed dish with Monika's helping hand after we had arrived at our holiday



home in **IO41TU** in the afternoon of the 20.08.2005.

In fact, we were ready to go on the 21<sup>st</sup> around noontime. As the fridge had to be loaded, we left for a short shopping trip, leaving the dish in a bird bath position, as the wind was breezing up a little. Unfortunately, when we came back, the wind had turned to gale force and we found the dish sprouts for one half of the



dish's circum-sphere to be bent over to almost 180° - a horrible sight for me... Now the dish really deserved its nickname: mud (mighty ugly dish)... Sad enough, I wrote an email to Joe in order to cancel all skeds that he had arranged. We both were very much disen-

chanted. However, it was Monika's persistence that drove me to find a repair solution for this bunch of scrapped aluminium tubing.

During the first week, we had ongoing gales moving in from the Atlantic, no way to tie the mesh panels onto the sprouts, which in the meantime I provisionally had re-bent to something they had looked like before. For the 27<sup>th</sup>, the sea-weather forecast indicated moderate wind-speeds force 3-4 for some hours and the 'small craft warning' for the

fishing boats was suspended, the first time since some days.

This was our chance, maybe the only one we would get.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> in the evening we therefore prepared the dish in about 2 hours time and informed Joe that we would try to be on.

When the Moon came

into our range, we made the first echo test at around 02:00 UTC on the 27<sup>th</sup>. In fact, we heard weak echoes, although the dish was swaying up and down in the wind due to rotator backlash. At around 02:15 UTC we suddenly heard a very strong signal tuning on 1296.045 MHz. It was **F2TU**, we immediately called him and made a QSO 559/549. Obviously, the system worked and we subsequently made 13 complete contacts during that activity period.

The Moon wasn't set already, when the storm came up very quickly again and we had to remove the 18 panels in a hurry.

Impatiently, we had to wait until the 29<sup>th</sup> of August late afternoon for the gales to calm down a little. Now, with sufficient practice we quickly moved the mesh back in and sent out the word via **K1RQG** that we would be on the Moon for a second try early Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup>, which of course was a normal working day...

Echoes were better than during the first attempt, but for stability reasons the dish still was under-illuminated (we had to move the septum feed into the dish in order to provide at least some balance). In the very early morning we started to work **ON7UN**, who we knew had to leave for work, but Eddy made it right in



time for work – and I assume – he was quite happy that day...

Nine other stations were to follow during the next hours, not bad for a Tuesday, isn't it?

At 15:10 UT, just before our Moonset, we heard **HB9JAW** calling us, but failed to make a QSO, as Michel later told us he had problems with the tracking computer.

In only about 20 hours of operation time with winds low enough to keep the dish on the Moon, we made 23 contacts with a significant number of 'firsts ever' (we will have to follow up). Certainly we would have loved to be on for a longer period and to work a few more of the lunatics gang, but inevitably the storm was giving the rules...

The RIG we used consisted of a modified **IC910 H** (to give 15w on 23 cm with a clean signal) with 500Hz filter, a 3-stage homebrew preamp **MGF4919G**, **Filter**, **ATF10136**, **Filter**, **MSA0804** with overall **NF=0.35 dB @ 43 dB gain**, a solid state **500W LDMOSFET** HPA from **DB6NT**, all driven by a homebrew sequencer.

Antenna auto track was performed by **F1EHN** software with a 10 bit-**EA4TX**-interface.

The septum feed used was produced by Zdenek, **OK1DFC**.

The reflector is fully collapsible and has an  $f/D = 0.45$ , which is unusually deep for a stressed dish, but works fine, if you



(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

pay attention to some important details like tensile dissipation along the sprouts. This DXpedition to **EI** was a very first test, entirely dedicated to portable Moon-bounce for 23cm, with a set-up capable of running random QSO's in CW.

Certainly, there will be more to follow, as the **EI**-activation was big fun, despite all the troubles we ran into. We learned a lot about all the things, which will have to be widely improved until next summer. There are plans to also integrate **70 cm** into the feed system for the next **DX-pedition** in 2006...so where do we go next ?

UTC	Call	Report
<b>27.08.2005</b>		
02:20	<b>F2TU</b>	(559 / 549)
02:38	<b>G4CCH</b>	(559 / 559)
02:54	<b>OE9ERC</b>	(569 / 569)
03:05	<b>OZ4MM</b>	(559 / 439)
03:17	<b>OH2DG</b>	(559 / 449)
03:23	<b>DJ9YW</b>	(559 / 449)
06:48	<b>K2UYH</b>	(549 / 549)
08:15	<b>K5SO</b>	(539 / O)
09:07	<b>N2IQ</b>	(539 / 449)
09:15	<b>K5JL</b>	(539 / 439)
09:21	<b>HB9SV</b>	(569 / 559)
10:20	<b>OE9ERC</b>	(569 / 569 – dupe)
10:22	<b>IK2MMB</b>	(O / 549)
11:01	<b>PA3CSG</b>	(539 / 549)
<b>30.08.2005</b>		
05:30	<b>ON7UN</b>	(559 / 529)
06:00	<b>OZ60L</b>	(O / 549)
08:10	<b>ZS6AXT</b>	(O / RO)
10:33	<b>VE1ALQ</b>	(O / 539)
11:40	<b>K5GW</b>	(559 / 559)
11:50	<b>OK1DFC</b>	(M / RO)
11:59	<b>K0YW</b>	(539 / 539)
12:10	<b>W5LUA</b>	(O / 449)
13:20	<b>OK1KIR</b>	(O / RO)
14:55	<b>W7BBM</b>	(559 / 559)



## Cork Radio Club



Members of Cork Radio Club pictured at their final meeting at Wilton Park House on December 19th 2005

Front L to R: Dave EI4BZ, Dick EI6HH, John EI3EC, Finbarr EI1CS, Aedan EI3EG, Dave EI9FBB.

Back L to R: Frank EI6EVB, Con EI7DJB, John EI8HS, Vincent EI7HN, Tony EI9ID, Anatoly EI4JF

## Fingal Radio Club Christmas Party

The Fingal Radio Club Christmas Party was held at the Club HQ in Erins Isle GAA Sports Complex in Finglas.

Once again, Sean Linehan EI7CV provided his culinary skills in the guise of an entree with delicious thick country soup with bread rolls, followed by a main course of freshly cooked stuffed turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, selection of vegetables, with a choice of gravy and then completed with a selection of deserts, namely, home cooked Christmas pudding with lashings of hot custard.

If that didn't take your fancy for desert, you always had a hot apple tart (baked in crispy brown puff pastry) and smothered in whipped cream to entice you. All this washed down with freshly brewed tea or coffee and completed with a complimentary drink of your choice from the Fingal Members Bar.

All told, it was a most enjoyable evening.

Aidan EI5HW, Hon Secretary  
Fingal Radio Club.



Sean EI7CV



# Letter to the Editor....

Dear Dave.

First of all my congratulations on the colour cover and high quality of the last issue of Echo Ireland. The consistent high standard of the magazine over the past number of years is a credit to you as editor and your many contributors. People often take magazines for granted and it's only when one disappears that people realise how much they enjoyed it during its lifetime. Magazines like EI are often compared unfairly with their glossy and upmarket cousins, produced by professional designers and print houses, bankrolled by substantial commercial advertising. So well done to all concerned on delivering six issues of the magazine on a voluntary basis, to such a high standard.

The second point of my letter is to express my great disappointment to see the clash of the Cork Rally/IRTS AGM and Enniskillen rallies again this year.

During my time on the IRTS committee, I proposed and the committee accepted, that a Rally Co-Ordinator be appointed. The function being to liaise with clubs and traders in an effort to spread the rallies more evenly throughout the year and at the very least to avoid clashes. The island is too small, and the radio enthusiast population too few, to support more than one rally on any one day. For a hobby supposedly built around communication of one sort or another, we can be very poor communicators at times. This being a perfect if unfortunate example. I checked the IRTS website just now to see who the current holder of this post is, only to find that this position has apparently been scrapped. It's a very disappointing situation and one that should not occur.

Hopefully this is that last time that a radio enthusiast on this island has to decide which rally to go to, on any given day.

Finally congratulations to all who sat the recent theory test, the historic first such event ran by the hobby for the hobby. And congratulations too, to the organisers - the IRTS. This is an excellent example of the type of leadership the national society should deliver.

With best regards from Mayo,  
John Corless, EI7IQ.

*The position of rally co-ordinator was filled for several years and never got the support from those who were meant to be co-ordinated.*

*As regards this year's unfortunate clash, the date for the 2006 AGM was published on both the radio news and Echo Ireland a full thirteen months ahead of time i.e. March 2005.*

*Dave EI4BZ*

## Limerick Radio Club AGM

The 2006 AGM of the Limerick Radio Club was held on Thursday 16th February 2006 at the Limerick Institute of Technology. The following officers and committee were elected:

Officers:

Dermot Gleeson EI2GT - Chairman

Michael Kingston EI2IX - Hon. Secretary

Tony Condon EI2AW - Hon. Treasurer

Committee: Alan Cronin EI8EM, Albert Lahoud EI9IY,  
John Edgeworth EI6IW, Michael Watterson EI9FEB.

## Dayton Hamvention 2006

Well in advance of the 55th Dayton Hamvention next spring, event organizers report they're implementing strategies to improve communication and provide more and better information about the show. Part of the plan is a complete makeover of the Dayton Hamvention Web site <<http://www.hamvention.org>>, still a work in progress.

Hamvention 2006 takes place May 19-21 at Hara Arena in Trotwood, Ohio. Dayton Hamvention volunteers this past spring asked many vendors and visitors alike what they could do to improve the world's largest Amateur Radio gathering, and "better communication" was the most common response.

"People told us what they wanted, and we are going to do our best to deliver," says Dayton Hamvention 2006 General Chairman Jim Nies, WX8F.

"We have set several goals for this year, and one of the most important is to respond to requests more quickly than we did during the 2005 show."

Nies took over the reins from Gary Des Combes, N8EMO, who headed up the 2004 and 2005 events and brought back an all-volunteer staff.

The Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) has sponsored Hamvention since the early 1950s.

The goal of the 2006 Dayton Hamvention staff will be to at least acknowledge all requests within 24 hours and, if possible, provide the information or assistance needed within the same time frame, Nies said. "I know that we won't be able to answer every question or deal with every problem immediately, but we will definitely make every effort to do it as soon as possible," he added.

Hamvention organizers say that while feedback from those who attended the 2005 show generally was very positive, a number indicated that more advance information would be helpful.

For example, Hamvention will post information on traffic patterns and access points on its Web site well in advance of the 2006 show, said Assistant General Chairman Carl Rose, K8CPR, who served as security chair for Dayton Hamvention 2004 and 2005.

"We tried some things with traffic flow and vendor access in 2005, and some worked very well and others need improvement," Rose said. "We will use the feedback we received, particularly about vendor access, to see if we can make it quicker and easier to get into the arena for setup."

Rose urged Dayton Hamvention visitors to check the Web site before leaving to see if there are any last minute changes due to construction or other unforeseen events. Hamvention also will continue golf cart shuttles and benches in the flea market for the convenience of attendees, Rose said.

Some things won't change for the 55th Hamvention. Ticket prices will remain the same as the 2005 show, and so will show hours.

Dayton Hamvention 2006 is expected to draw some 25,000 visitors from all over the US and around the world. The Dayton/Montgomery County Convention & Visitors Bureau has estimated Dayton Hamvention's annual economic impact at close to \$4 million for Montgomery County and nearly \$10 million regionally.

*Thanks to the ARRL Letter*

# The East Cork Radio Group, EI7M

## Annual Report on Activities during 2005

The Annual General Meeting of the East Cork Radio Group was held recently at the Group's Shack in Carrigtwohill. Chairman Mannix McAlister EI5HB in his address reviewed another very busy year for the Group. He paid tribute to the group's landlords John EI8IR and Hilary EI4IE for the excellent facilities available and pointed out that installation of a permanent station was a huge advance in the groups operations.

Work on the shack during the past year included a complete electrical installation and a remake of the RF cable arrangements.

The main external work was the laying of 4" ducting, the building of manholes and the laying of new coaxial cables between the two towers and the shack.

Two second hand TH7s were purchased during the year.

On the operating front, the secretary's report showed that eleven contests were entered during the year.

A feature of the year was the number of guest operators who travelled to operate with the group in the bigger contests. Girts YL2KL and Kas YL1ZF made the trip from Riga in Latvia for the CQWW CW contest, Brendan EI0CZ travelled from Clare and Paul EI6FE made the trip from Limerick. For the CQWW SSB contest, Steve G3ZVW and Pete G4CLA made the trip from the UK while Thos EI2JD visited from Co. Louth.

Mark EI6JK operated in the ARRL SSB Contest.

The year began with John EI8IR entering the UBA SSB contest where he placed 3rd in the EEC and 5th in the world.

Dave EI4BZ operated single operator in the ARRL CW contest in February and he finished 3rd in Europe.

The CQWW 160m SSB contest was entered in the multi operator section and the team were listed as 2nd in Europe in the claimed scores on the CQ website.

Over the first weekend in March, a three man team of EI8IR, EI8GS and EI6JK entered the ARRL SSB Contest and finished a good second in Europe behind IR4X.

On the last weekend in March, EI8IR and EI3JE activated the EU capital of culture callsign EI05CCC in the CQWW WPX SSB contest. Jim EI8GS operated 20m only from home.

Over the June bank holiday weekend Steve EI9HC and Dave EI4BZ operated EI7M/P from Athboy in Co. Meath in the CW Field Day. They will be picking up the Pete Daly Cup at the upcoming AGM as winners of the open section.

The VHF/UHF field day is always held over the first weekend in July and for this one the Group has a longstanding arrangement with the Wexford gang for a joint venture.

Unfortunately, no other groups enter the open section in this one but this does not stop a big effort being made every year. All bands from 6m to 23cms are activated seriously and a feature of the event is the annual turkey dinner cooked on site.

The Islands On The Air Contest was held on the last weekend in July and was again a joint venture with the Bristol Contest Group. A huge effort was made with the set-up on Bere Island and the effort paid off with when the EJ2MT team finished as the leading DXpedition station and 3rd overall.

The EI7M callsign was activated in the restricted section at the centralised SSB Field Day in Ballinasloe by EI4BZ and EI6FE on the first weekend in September.

The biggest radio events of the year are undoubtedly the SSB and CW CQ World-wide contests.

The group decided to make a big effort for both of these events and a lot of attention was paid to the station hardware before the SSB event. A new permanent 80 foot vertical was installed replacing the temporary one that has stood for five years.

Unfortunately, due to local farming activity, the usual range of beverages could not be deployed and all that could be achieved was the usual northeast one and a compromise one to the northwest.

A seven man team made up of visitors G3ZVW, G4CLA, EI2JD, EI9FBB and locals EI3JE, EI8GS and EI8IR put in a tremendous performance to make 9.4 million points and a second place in EU in the claimed scores listings.

Four weeks later, another serious effort was made in the CW leg. This time the help came from Latvia in the form of Girts LY2KL and Kas LY1ZF, both very experienced and well travelled operators.

Brendan EI0CZ and Paul EI6FE travelled from the Limerick area and the locals were EI3JE, EI6BT and EI4BZ.

This effort produced almost 8.8 million points, just a whisker behind OM7M who head the EU claimed scores list.

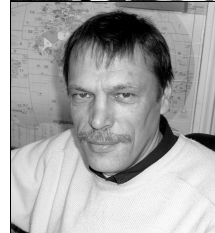
The new Chairman of the Group is Neil EI3JE with Jerry EI6BT remaining as treasurer, Dave EI4BZ as secretary and Denis EI6HB as QSL Manager. Cormac EI4HQ will look after the web site.

The club is totally devoted to contesting and existing or aspiring testers from any part of the country are very welcome to come along to meet the group. Enquiries to any of the officers.

### Guest Operators at EI7M during 2005

#### Top to Bottom:

Pete G4CLA, Steve G3ZVW, Thos EI2JD, Brendan EI0CZ, Kas YL1ZF, Girts YL2KL, Dave EI9FBB, Mark EI6JK.





# CQIR - Ireland Calling: Preliminary Announcement.

In 2007 the IRTS celebrates the 75th anniversary of its founding in 1932. As part of its jubilee celebrations the Society is organising an International Radio Contest, "CQIR - Ireland Calling".

For this contest, references to Ireland mean the island of Ireland and its off-shore islands - both EI and GI.

CQIR is a once-off event with a difference - overseas entrants with 75 or more QSOs have the opportunity to win a trip to Ireland.

CQIR is a 24-hour, single-operator HF CW/SSB contest on the weekend of 29/30 September 2007. As this is the fifth full weekend in the month, there is no clash with any established event.

CQIR is a celebration of both the IRTS Jubilee and the "Irish" amateur-radio community worldwide. It's where the Irish, at home and abroad, work the World - and where those of Irish descent identify themselves by including their ancestral county in the exchange, for example: County Limerick, County Antrim etc.

Here is a summary of the rules. Full rules and county codes will appear on [www.irts.ie](http://www.irts.ie).

**Prize Draw:** For each and every 75 valid QSOs logged, entrants will qualify for one entry to a prize draw. Two prizes will be awarded, the first for entrants operating from outside Ireland, and the second for entrants operating from Ireland.

i) Air travel to Ireland for two people, with accommodation for one week in Kinnitty Castle, Co. Offaly.

ii) A weekend for two in New York City.

Entrant are "Irish" if:  
1 They operate from Ireland, or  
2 They were born in Ireland, or have a direct ancestral link to Ireland - with no time limit.

Anyone whose partner/spouse qualifies under this section can be Irish too.

All other entrants are "World" entrants.

**Exchange:** Entrants operating from Ireland send a serial and their county code. For example : 021 MAY  
Irish entrants outside Ireland, known as "Overseas Irish", also send a county code - representing the most recent county resided in by themselves, their partner/spouse, or their direct ancestor.

In place of a serial, Overseas Irish send the most recent year they, or their spouse/ancestor as relevant, left Ireland to live or work overseas - 1849, 1978, 2004 etc. This should be the same for all QSOs.

Example of an Overseas Irish exchange : 1966 ANT

World (non-Irish) entrants send a serial only.

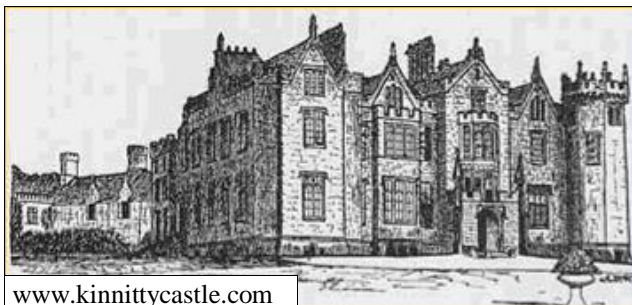
**Points & Multipliers:** CQIR is a world-wide "everyone works everyone" event, with 2 points for SSB QSOs and 3 for CW.

Points are doubled for QSOs with Irish stations - those giving a county code in accordance with the rules.

Multipliers are Irish County Codes - a maximum of 32 per band/mode combination.

Free software will be provided to support CQIR.

73,  
Paul Martin EI2CA  
P.R.O. - IRTS.  
[paul@comma.ie](mailto:paul@comma.ie)



[www.kinnittycastle.com](http://www.kinnittycastle.com)

## List of EI's on EQSL

22/02/2006

DXCC Confirmed	Callsign	
155	EI7BA	Approved
116	EI3IO	
115	EI4CF	Approved
92	EI2JD	Approved
91	EI6IZ	Approved
87	EI9HQ	Approved
83	EJ9HQ	Approved
71	EI6AL	Approved
70	EI9ES	Approved
65	EI7M	
61	EI4IS	
58	EI9JF	
57	EI6HB	
56	EI1DG	
55	EI0CZ	
54	EI7IQ	
51	EI7IX	Approved
50	EI/DH0GSU/p	
49	EI9JM	
45	EI9FVB	
41	EI2II	Approved
41	EI9FBB	
39	EI6IF	
38	EI7BMB	
32	EI4HH	Approved
32	EI4HQ	
30	EI6ARB	
31	EI6CPB	Approved
30	EI8DD	
28	EI7BFB	
25	EI2FS	

<http://www.eqsl.cc/eqslcard/eDX100Standings.cfm?SortOrder>

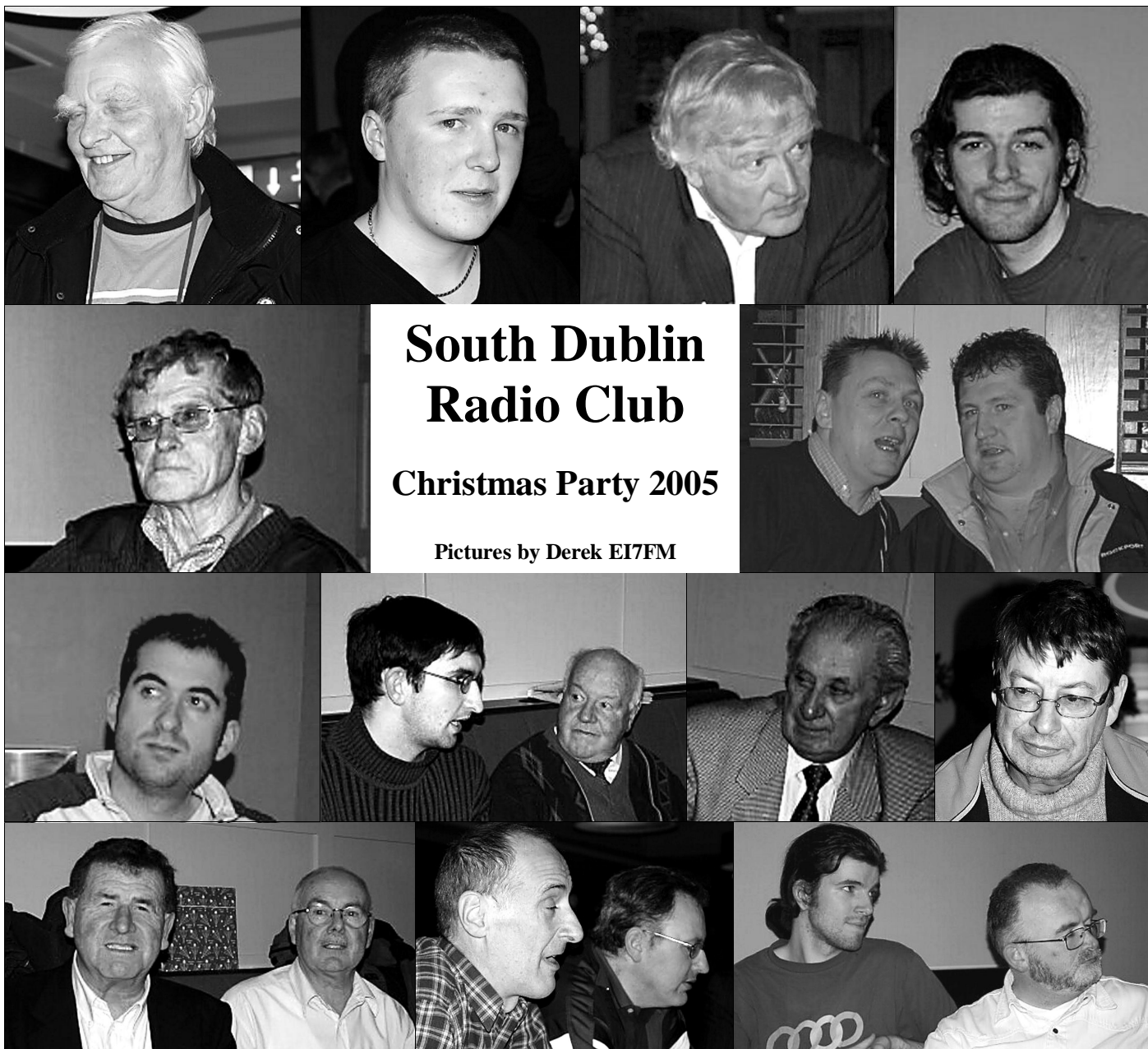
## Trophy Nominations

Members are reminded that nominations are being sought for IRTS trophies awarded at the AGM.

If you feel some individual or groups activities should be honoured, then please send your nomination to Peter Grant EI4HX, chairman of the awards sub-committee.

There are two trophies for home construction so bring your project along to the Vienna Woods on the day.

Shortwave listeners are also catered for. See year book for details.



## South Dublin Radio Club Christmas Party 2005

Pictures by Derek EI7FM

Top: Davy GI3OBO/EI2HP: Matthew EI7JL: Seamus EI8BP: Rob EI2GQB.  
 2nd Row: Joe EI7GW: Mark EI6JK & Nicki EI9JF.  
 3rd Row: Kyle EI2JO:: Daniel EI9FHB: Brendan EI3GV: Larry EI1513: Alan EI7EH.  
 Bottom Row: Derek EI7FM with Tom EI8HT; Joe EI7GY & Michael EI2GKB: Rob EI2GQB & Tony EI9FIB.

## IRTS DXpedition 2007.

Following the request for 'expressions of interest' in an IRTS DXpedition to Southern Africa as part of the 75th. Jubilee celebrations, 15 EIs and GIs responded.

Over the next month, based on feedback received, more detailed planning will take place, however it is evident that there is considerable interest in Contest operation, so it is likely that the trip will be planned to coincide with either the ARRL DX SSB Contest or the CQWW WPX SSB Contest.

Frosty, K5LBU, one of the directors of African DX Safari, will come to Ireland over the weekend 11th and 12th March, to further brief prospective participants.

On Saturday the 11th. Frosty will be in the Montaque Hotel, Portlaoise on the Saturday afternoon between 2 and 4pm and also at the Limerick Rally on Sunday the 12th.

In addition to slide presentations of recent expeditions to various Southern African countries, Frosty will be able to answer any questions regarding operating conditions, station facilities, accommodation etc.

All are welcome to attend, whether you are already signed up, or if you have a possible interest in joining the team, or even if you just have a general interest in DXing.

If you are attending at Portlaoise, please let Paul EI2CA know, Tel 087-2523908.



# A.R.E.N. Supports Safety Communications in The West Cork Rally

AREN operators Declan Horan, Hugh O'Donnell and Conor O'Neill assist Cork Motor club in preparing for the 2006 West Cork Rally.

The West Cork Rally is held each year on St Patrick's week-end. Top drivers from Ireland and abroad demonstrate their skill in piloting some of the latest specification world rally cars through a mixture of tight, twisty and open fast roads that connect the beautiful countryside surrounding the town of Clonakilty.

Such a high profile event commands meticulous preparation and execution of a well-engineered plan. It's the premier event in Cork Motor Clubs calendar requiring the combined efforts of literally hundreds of volunteers to ensure running of a successful event.

Effective communications is key to coordinating activities over the two-day event. The radio system is also used to report accidents and coordinate the deployment of emergency services.

These services comprise in the region of 6 ambulances, 5 doctors and 4 rally rescue teams. Last year the club hired 62 mobile radios with ¼ wave mag-mounts antennas, 12 handheld radios and a repeater with base antenna and PSU.

The system operates on high band VHF.

As the locations of the timed special stages vary from year to year, so too must the repeater location, in order to provide sufficient coverage.

Headquarters and rally control this year will be based in the town of Clonakilty while the timed stages are located as far west as Ballygurteen and as far east as Bandon.

In past years the communications equipment hirer provided personnel to locate and set up the repeater but this service was discontinued prior to the 2005 running of the event.

Munster AREN coordinator Conor O'Neill, EI4JN is also a member of Cork Motor Club and has been involved in the running of the event in different roles since the early nineties.

He was appointed Club Communications Coordinator for the second year running this year.

Drawing from the pool of skilled AREN members, local experimenters Declan EI9FVB and Hugh EI2HI were drafted in.

Declan EI9FVB is an avid portable ops man and Hugh EI2HI who resides in the area has immense local knowledge.

Both have featured in the list of winners of the 2-metre counties contest in recent years.

Much of the rally route hugs the coast at an elevation barely above sea level. Inland hills tend to shadow coverage in these areas. Some of the best roads meander through the hills making it particularly difficult. The ends of the timed stages are normally run downhill where high speed can be obtained. The finish radio control is then located at low elevation where the terrain levels out. These factors combine to make the selection of the repeater location quite difficult.

Details of the stages were obtained from the Clerk of the Course and plotted on 1:50,000 discovery series maps. These were studied in detail and a short list of possible repeater locations was compiled. Coverage maps predicting signal strengths over the area were generated before selecting the preferred site. Many hills in the area have restricted access. Many too, have a multitude of communications installations already in place, which might result in interference. With a site selected on paper, a testing schedule was drawn up and executed over a number of days. This involved setting up a portable station on the proposed repeater site and driving a mobile station through the entire rally route. All operations were carried out on 2 metres. Power levels and antennae were selected to best replicate the specification of the equipment that would be rented so the results obtained would be representative of the performance that would be expected on the rally weekend.

A handheld transceiver was also tested at specific locations

where when the rally is live, some officials need to be contactable when away from their cars.

As the required coverage was obtained from the first site tested, it was deemed unnecessary to test any others. Full permissions were obtained for the use of the site both for testing and for the rally weekend from a most cooperative landowner.

The exercise was a good opportunity for AREN to demonstrate technical competencies in supporting public safety on a high profile event.

With the motor clubs preparations now in the final stages the Clerk of the course can be confident that the repeater will provide the coverage required to efficiently run again, what has been often flagged as the best run rally in the country.

*The picture shows the set up used by Conor EI4JN for site testing.*



## Twinning of Dundalk Amateur Radio Society and Church Island ARG.

Early last year Joe EI2GVB (GI1JHQ) made contact with Thos EI2JD, chairman of Dundalk Amateur Radio Society.

During the conversation he mentioned he was a member of a new club the Church Island ARG. It was suggested that a few members of Church Island club might visit the Dundalk club at its next meeting.

At the next meeting six radio hams arrived from Bellaghy Co. Derry. There was a great night's craic and new friends were made.

Later on in the year the Dundalk club visited the club in Bellaghy where Amateur TV and contesting were talked about, which led to another visit to Dundalk for an Amateur TV night.

Thanks to Pat EI2HX who set up the station and to Mike EI5GG for explaining in great detail how it all works. Also to Mark EI9FX who sent a TV signal to the club from his QTH.

It was also decided to enter the 2m Counties Contest, where Co. Derry was



Thos EI2JD, Chairman of Dundalk Radio Society being presented with a commemorative plaque by Trevor Campbell MI5TCC

activated as MN0LBA. At a later meeting the idea of twinning the two clubs came up, this was discussed and agreed.

On 09/02/06 some members of the Dundalk ARS travelled to a meeting in Bellaghy where they celebrated the twinning of the two clubs.

Thos EI2JD Chairman of Dundalk club was given an engraved plaque by John MI0MIO chairman of Church Island to commemorate the event. Both chairmen commented on improving cross border communications and both are looking forward to assisting each other in Amateur TV, contesting and Field Day events. A proposed activation of Rathlin Island as an entry in the IRTS 2m counties contests and possible combined efforts for other contests were also discussed.

Dundalk ARS is looking forward to the company of Church Island ARG at its next meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> March.



Thos EI2JD, Chairman of Dundalk Radio Society, John MI0MIO Chairman of Church Island ARG and Jim EI970.

## Cork Radio Club

The Cork Radio Club would like to announce the Blarney Rally will be held this year on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September at the usual venue One of the longest running in EI, this will be it's 15<sup>th</sup> year and still going strong.

All the usual traders will be in attendance along with casual sellers so dont forget to chalk it down in your dairy.

On Monday February 6<sup>th</sup>, Con EI7DJB demonstrated how a torch with out batteries operated using the Faraday method of induction. He also showed a unusual wind up torch that charged a battery and lit up 3 LEDs

The Cork Radio Club meet every Monday night in Room 4 at the SMA Community Centre in Wilton. All are welcome.

## South Eastern Amateur Radio Group

The Annual General Meeting of South Eastern Amateur Radio Group took place on Wednesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February. The following is the committee line-up for 2006;

John McCarthy (EI8JA) remains as Chairperson and Vice Chair is John Ronan (EI7IG).

Mark Wall (EI7IS), continues as secretary as do Treasurer, Michael Hoban (EI5DCB) and PRO, Nicky Madigan (EI3JB).

Officers for 2006 are; Eddie Steadman (EI9DJB), Egidio Gianni (EI9EQ) and Martin Evans (EI8FFB).

The date of the Waterford rally was announced as Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2006 in the Woodlands Hotel, Waterford.

## Mid-Ulster Amateur Radio Rally

The Mid-Ulster Amateur Radio Rally will be held on Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup> 2006 at the Lough Neagh Discovery Centre, Oxford Island.

The venue is in the middle of the Oxford Island Nature Reserve located on the southern shores of Lough Neagh. ([www.oxfordisland.com](http://www.oxfordisland.com)).

The rally is open from 1200 to 1600 and refreshments will be available on site.

## AREN Assist Raynet at the Isle of Man Car Rally

Following the success of last years AREN trip to Isle of Man for the Manx National Rally, expressions of interest are invited from any AREN members who would like to assist Raynet again this year.

The rally takes places over the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of May.

For information see [www.manxrally.org](http://www.manxrally.org). Full training will be provided.

For further details contact Munster AREN co-ordinator,

Conor O'Neill, EI4JN on 021 4801111 or e-mail [ei4jn@eircom.net](mailto:ei4jn@eircom.net).

# CQWW 160 CW 2006 from EI0W

*Clogherhead, Co. Louth.*

It was early December '05 and the phone rang, it was an interruption from whatever DX I was chasing that day. It turned out to be a pleasant interruption as it was my old friend Slavek OK1TN.

Slavek had come over to Ireland for the first time in 2004 to participate in the CQWW 160 CW from my QTH in Clogherhead. Slavek is a well travelled contesteur with something like 68 different DXCC activations.

I helped him put up a 75 foot vertical and ran a dozen or so 40m long radials along the ground, some even ending in the Irish Sea.

He had a fantastic signal on 160 that year, I worked many new DXCC on SSB before and after the contest.

After passing a few pleasantries on the phone Slavek asked if he could come over to Ireland again to do the CQWW 160 CW at the end of Jan '06.

I said of course, he is always welcome and we duly set about organising the event. During the course of the next few weeks and with many phone calls both landline and through SKYPE on the computer we had everything organised. Slavek was flying in on the Wednesday morning before the contest accompanied by his friend Jan OK1NU.

I picked them up at the airport and arrived back home to Clogherhead around dinner time, where there was a BIG pot of Irish Stew waiting, it didn't last long as we scoffed it all.

Outside after dinner we opened the 2m long package they brought with them from the Czech Rep. Inside were the makings of two vertical antennae that Slavek had put together, a few switchboxes, some connectors and a few pieces of his own Zach CW Paddles. (Solid Brass- beautiful).

The main antenna we had decided on using was going to be a 41m vertical (1/4 lambda) and the receive antenna was going to be a K9AY design vertical. The 41m vertical was made up in 2 sections, the first 10m was telescopic aluminium tubing, the second 10m was telescopic fibreglass tubing. We ran a length of 1mm stainless steel wire up through the aluminium and fibreglass tubing which when vertical gave us 20m. The remaining 21m of wire we were going to keep up with a Helium filled balloon.



**Jan OK1NU, Thos EI2JD, Charlie GI4FUE, Slavek OK1TN**

Next off we went to Drogheda to get the Helium gas and some supplies. That evening was a good opportunity to bring the two of them to the "Irish Pub" where they enjoyed the pint of Guinness.

Next day (Thursday) my brother Kieran and Oscar EI7IW arrived to help put the antennae up. This was indeed a very easy operation as there was no weight in the verticals. Just as we had both antennae tied down Mark EI9IB arrived. Good timing as he had the MFJ Analyser and a new role of LMR 400 coax.

The next thing was the exciting part, filling the balloon with Helium, securing it to the stainless steel wire and letting it go. I tied a length of string to the bottom of the balloon as well, this was used to tie/hold the balloon into the wind. We then rolled out 9 x 40m radials, hammered a 2m spike into the ground and attached the radials to it. Mark attached the MFJ Analyser to the antenna (see pic) to find a 1.1 SWR at 1.8412 MHz. We checked the ropes again and then put up a perimeter fence to keep any cattle away from the antennae, ran out two lengths of coax and connected antennae. Checked

antennae again through the radio (Kenwood TS2000) and found both to be working.

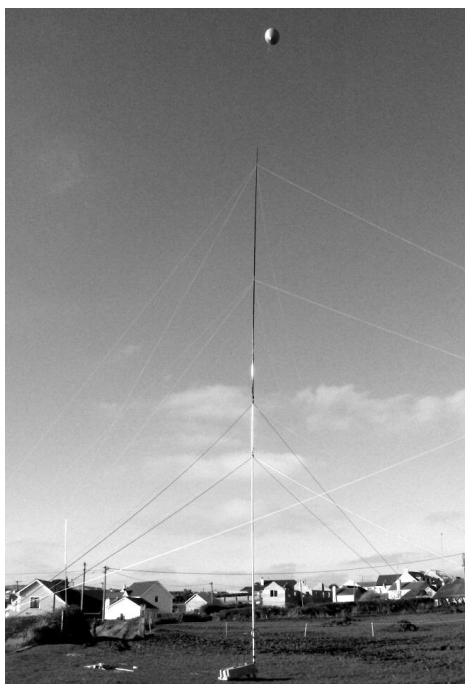
It was getting dark and we were getting hungry. So myself and Mark brought Slavek and Jan to the Monasterboice Inn where we enjoyed 4 very large fillet steaks and all trimmings. As par for the course then back to the "Local" for a few to wash it all down. Both Slavek and Jan were very wise as they headed off back to the house after only a few, but myself and Mark held on until the wee hours, hic!!! Friday arrived and so did the wind, the vertical did not keep its shape very well with a 1.5m balloon hanging out of it, at times it looked more like an inverted "L". We had our first visitors in the afternoon when Pat EI2HX and Derek EI7CHB arrived to put there critical eye on proceedings. Needless to say the kettle went on and numerous cups of tea were consumed. Mark headed off home but would be back on Sunday.

Friday night arrives and so does the 4th member of the team in the guise of Charlie GI4FUE all the way from Carrickfergus with the contest radio, a Yaesu FT 1000D. We sat the radio on the table, rigged up the laptop and Morse paddle, plugged in the antennae and tuned up the amp (Acom 1000). We then retired to the sitting room where there was a big open fire blazing and relaxed for a while. As Slavek was going to "run" for the night he put his head down for a few hours.

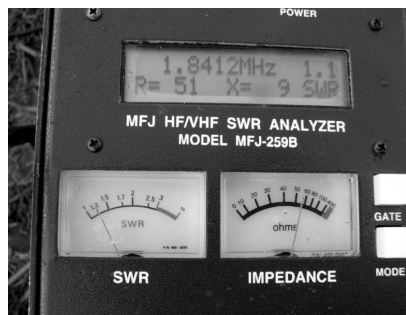
The wind had not eased off and a strong gust blew the balloon so that it nearly hit the ground. In doing so it bent the top aluminium section of the

*(Continued on page 19)*





vertical and so it did not straighten up. We checked all and everything was ok, even if a bit unsightly. Midnight arrives and Slavek starts the contest, the QSO's start pilling up. After an hour or so we retire and leave Slavek to it, he was a happy man, a good antennae system a good radio and Morse Code-filling his ears. Unfortunately during the night the balloon came down (gusts of wind) and burst. So Slavek tied off the wire to a post giving him something close to an inverted "L". This worked well throughout the night. About 08:50 as 160m closed he retired.



Saturday afternoon we dropped the transmit vertical and tried to straighten the bent aluminium but to no avail. So we took that section out shortening the vertical by 2m and ran 2m more wire out through the top to keep the overall length of 41m. We then got out a second balloon (a green one this time, the first was orange) filled it with Helium and made it secure and let it go. No string needed this time as the wind had decreased. Early afternoon saw the first signals on 160m so Jan, Charlie and myself spent a little

time on the radio logging a few QSO's. It was nice to use the one letter suffix EI0W on CW for the first time as I had already used it during the IOTA contest the previous July on SSB. Late afternoon saw our next visitors to the shack, this time it was Pete EI7JQ and his XYL.

Saturday night was uneventful with the QSO's pilling in from Europe and USA. Between 0400 and 0600 was very good for USA. I think 36 American States and Canadian provinces were worked.

Sunday morning came and I called into the IRTS news on 40m and 80m. I found I could tune the antenna on 80, 40 and 20 as well so had a bit of fun chasing DX during the day.

Our first visitor of the day was Kieran EI9DA all the way from Carrickmacross followed later by two regulars to radio events in Clogherhead, Ben EI4IN and Geoff EI6CW. After a tour of the set-up and tea and coffee and a chat they headed off home.

Mark EI9IB arrived back then and was brought up to date with all proceedings. Charlie "ran" the radio until he had to head home about 2000 and Jan logged QSO's until midnight bringing the contest to a close.

At time of writing I do not have the final score. Slavek is going to get full colour

cards printed, so if you are in the log you will be getting a nice QSL card from EI0W.

Monday morning we drove to Kildare to Mark's QTH to see the new contest station he has built over the past year. We intend using this station in the big contests during the year. (WPX, IARU, IOTA, CQWW) You never know, we might see Slavek back soon to join the EI0W team again.

That evening we headed out to the best Steak House in Ireland again (The Monasterboice Inn) to feast on the famous cuisine.

Tuesday morning I brought the boys on a cultural tour of the Boyne Valley incorporating the full tour of "Newgrange" the 5,000 year old burial tomb just outside of Drogheda. On then into Drogheda and a tour of the local museum and Martello tower. Back to Clogherhead late afternoon and in no time had dropped the antennae and put everything away. Back to just a G5RV again, sob !!!

Oh, nearly forgot, worked 600N on 160 CW before dropping the antenna. That night (Tuesday) was an early night as Slavek and Jan had to be at the airport for 6:00.

I think they headed back home with wonderful memories of their Irish visit.

Thos EI2JD

## Contest Calendar

### March 2006

4/5th	0001-2359	ARRL DX Contest	SSB
11/12th	1000-1000	RSGB Commonwealth Contest	CW
18/20th	0200-0200	BARTG Spring RTTY Contest	RTTY
18/19th	1200-1200	DARC HF SSTV Contest	SSTV
18/19th	1200-1200	Russian DX Contest	CW/SSB
25/26th	0001-2359	CQWW WPX Contest	SSB

### April 2006

1/2nd	1500-1500	SP DX Contest	CW/SSB
1/2nd	1600-1600	EA RTTY Contest	RTTY
8/9th	0700-1300	Japan International DX Contest	CW
8th	1500-1859	EU Spring Sprint	SSB
8/9th	2100-2100	Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest	CW
15th	0001-2359	Holyland DX Contest	CW/SSB
15th	1500-1859	EU Spring Sprint	CW
17th	1400-1600 (local)	IRTS 2m Counties Contest	CW/SSB/FM
22/23rd	1200-1200	SP DX Contest	RTTY
22/23rd	0001-2359	Colombia International Contest	CW/SSB
29/30th	1300-1300	Helvetia Contest	CW/SSB/Digi

For details of smaller contests and links to contest rules and results try the following:

WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>  
SM3CER Contest Service <http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/>

# Islands On The Air Contest 2005

## EI Results

<i>Call</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>QSOs</i>	<i>Mults</i>	<i>Pwr</i>	<i>Hrs</i>	<i>IOTA</i>	<i>QTH</i>	<i>Position</i>
<b>DXpedition High Power</b>								
EJ2MT	10,202,615	3,029	505	HP		EU121	Bere Island	1st
EJ0GI	3,375,960	1,831	280	HP		EU006	Inish Oirr	15th
EJ4F	2,684,538	1,406	283	LP		EU006	Arranmore	19th
<b>Mixed</b>								
EI4DW	106,380	327	60	HP	12H	EU115	Ireland	32nd
<b>CW Single Operator</b>								
EI9ES	21,690	113	30	LP	24H	EU115	Ireland	84th
<b>SSB Single Operator</b>								
*EI0W	1,418,634	1,298	189	HP		EU115	Ireland	5th
EI2II	324,582	595	94	HP	24H	EU115	Ireland	17th
EI4CF	324,480	420	104	LP	12H	EU115	Ireland	18th
EI7CC	234,837	303	97	LP	24H	EU115	Ireland	25th
EI7IQ	35,964	112	37	LP	24H	EU115	Ireland	80th

\*EI0W does not qualify for any IRTS trophies in this contest.

The IOTA Contest results were announced recently and show that EI participation was up by one station on the previous year. A total of ten EI stations are listed in several sections with some very fine achievements.

At the top of the competition, in the multi-operator island station class, EJ2MT, a coalition of the East Cork and Bristol groups finished as the leading DXpedition station and in 3rd overall position. They were headed by fixed stations 9A8RR from Croatia and MD4K from the Isle of Man.

Again, only three (EJ) island stations were active for the contest. As well as the aforementioned EJ2MT, members of South Dublin Radio Club and friends travelled to Inisheer and operated as EJ5E. The EI4GK led team at EJ4F operated this year from Arranmore in County Donegal, a big improvement in comfort levels from their low power effort from Little Saltee island last year.

Only one EI record was broken this year, EJ2MT in the multi-op section set a record that will be very difficult to beat in future years. Congratulations to all participating stations and we hope for more next year. The full results are available on the RSGB HF Contest Committees website at [www.rsgbhfcc.org](http://www.rsgbhfcc.org)

### IRTS Trophies

There are three IRTS trophies awarded for activities in the IOTA Contest. The IRTS IOTA Trophy is awarded to the leading EJ (island station) and of course goes to the EJ2MT Team.

The Society's oldest trophy, the IRTS DX Cup, is awarded to the leading EI single operator station. This year, it will be presented to Enda EI2II. This comes about as, by IRTS committee decision, the entry of EI0W is not being considered for any IRTS award.

The Hal Hodgins Key is awarded to the leading CW entry and this year, that is Peter EI9ES. We look forward to another great IOTA Contest over the weekend of July 29/30th.

## Islands On The Air Contest

### EI Records

<i>Call</i>	<i>QSOs</i>	<i>Mults</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>IOTA</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Island</i>
<b>Multi-Operator</b>						
EJ2MT	3,029	505	10,212,615	EU-121	2005	Bere Island
<b>Island Multi-Operator Low Power, Single Elements</b>						
EJ7M	1,336	239	1,924,428	EU-121	2003	Bere Island
<b>SO 24 Hour Mixed</b>						
EI5DI	1,052	190	1,243,718	EU-115	1999	
<b>SO 24 Hour CW</b>						
EI4BZ	660	115	477,480	EU-115	2001	
<b>SO 24 Hour SSB</b>						
EI8IR	2,091	217	2,546,061	EU-115	2004	
<b>SO 12 Hour Mixed</b>						
EI5DI	567	84	260,820	EU-115	2001	
<b>SO 12 Hour CW</b>						
EI4DW	382	76	181,944	EU-115	2002	
<b>SO 12 Hour SSB</b>						
EI7GL	424	151	612,456	EU-115	2001	

## Members Advertisements

### For Sale:

MFJ-784B DSP Filter (Tunable) Manual included. ....€170.00  
 AEA PK-88 Packet Controller (Boxed ) Manual included €95.  
 Datong - Automatic R.F. Speech Processor. Price €95.00  
 OneRC CMK2201 4:1 Balun 1KW.....Price €49.00  
 New 108 Key Keyboard RF proof for CW Keyer/Reader ..€25  
 Sure H/H Mike Model no 201. for Yaesu 101E/902DM. €25  
 MFJ-464 Morse Code Reader/Keyer (New) Plus PC interface connections. Price €145.00

Open to offers:

Contact : Tony Magliocco ei6dl@eircom.net  
 or ring 086 2633311.

**For Sale:** Icom 735 HF Transceiver, 100 watt output power in good condition.

**Wanted:** pc interface connector for Garmin GPS 12 handheld Rx  
 Phone 086-4058502

**Free** 30 copies of QST\CQ magazines from early 90's  
 Contact Mike EI8HV 086-3324777

**For Sale:** Reception Set R 107, 1940s vintage receiver covering 1.2 - 17.5 Mcs in three subranges 1.2 - 3.0 Mcs, 2.9 - 7.5Mcs, 7.0 - 17.5Mcs, CW and RT.

A real collector's item, needing some minor attention.  
 Contact EI3C at 049 4331030 or at ei3c@oceanfree.net

**For Sale:** Tokyo Hy Power antenna coupler (ATU) HC200A . 80m to 10m including WARC. Spotless condition. Price €130.  
 100m roll of quality RG58/U coax. New & unused. €40.00  
 50m roll of quality RG213/UBX coax. New & unused €50. a couple of free PL connectors with each roll. This is high quality cable not available in Ireland.

Also some quality 450 ohm ladder line phone for details.  
 Phone 087-2904243 or leave message on 087-52904243

**For Sale:** Heatherlite Explorer Linear Amplifier, 80 - 10m: 2 x 3-500: €650.00 o.n.o.  
 Jerry EI6BT 087-2604667

**For Sale:** 2 40 Channel CB Walkie Talkies, Realistic TRC-207 4 watt Output €100.00  
 200 Channel Programmable Scanner Realistic PRO-32 VHF HI\LO-Aircraft-UHF, Excellent Condition in box with instructions €70.00  
 Will accept reasonable offers  
 Contact Mike EI8HV 086-3324777

## National 4 Metre Activity Nights

First Tuesday each month

70.2625 MHz FM

2000-2200



## Reading the Mail

By

Michael McNamara, EI2CL

A late "Happy New Year" to all and welcome to compilation #40 of "Reading the Mail" – an account of IRTS incoming QSL Bureau activity from 28 November 2005 to 24 January 2006.

Following the usual summer and autumn doldrums, there is not much to report but, for the record, small packets (less than 1 kg) came from AFVL, ARM, ARRL, ARSK, ERAÜ, EDR, RAC, and YL2GN.

Making up for the small number of packets I was well and truly occupied with heavier lots that came from ARI x4 (2kg each), Dutch QSL buro and CRC (3.9 kg each), and DARC (10 kg).

Cards from the following were thought worthy of mention: C5Z, E30NA, E30TA, EA9/OL8R, K6O, LX50V, P40HQ, R750FM, T6KBLRM, T7IARU, T70A, T77GO, TJ3FR, V550/p, VU3VLH, YA7X, 3W2KF, 6W/DK8YY, and 9G500.

For IOTA chasers there were cards from umpteen different Canadian, Caribbean, Croatian, Danish, German and Italian islands. There was also CG1FO, D4A, FM/JJ2RCJ, JW/DJ3KR, KL7AK/p, OY/OK2EC, R1FJ, R0PA (North Pole – 32) T88CC, TA0/YU7AV, VC7K, VE9W, VK9AA, XM2CWI, YV0D, ZD7J, and ZX0F.

Congratulations to all recipients. Until my next report, all best wishes and lots of good DX in 2006.

Michael McNamara, EI2CL

## A.R.E.N. Presentation at Limerick



Pictured at the recent AREN presentation delivered by Conor EI4JN at Limerick Radio Club are : (Back row: L to R) Dermot EI2GT, Tony EI2AW, Tony EI9IL, Brian EI9AL, Conor EI4JN

(Front row: L to R) John EI4FOB, Mike EI9FEB, Albert EI9IY, Mike EI2IX, Brendan EI0CZ.

Any club wishing to host the AREN presentation which includes a demonstration of the Anderson Power-pole system is welcome to contact the National coordinator John Ketch EI2GN on 086-2593005 or 0900 to 1700 on 021-4323283



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Yaesu FT857D HF + 6m + 2m + 70cm, DSP.  
Special Offer, new .... €849.00  
Yaesu FT840, 0-30MHz, All Mode, 100w, FM option, New.. 2 year warranty. Special Offer ... €625.00  
Yaesu FT920 - FT1000MP lookalike. HF+6m. ATU, DSP etc. €1,299.00  
Icom IC707 Budet priced HF Transceiver. 100w €499.00  
Icom IC7000. Latest Icom Multiband. Display model. €1,399.00  
Kenwood TS950SDX. Tyop Class Dxers rig. 150w ATU, PSU. Mint €1,899.00  
Kenwood TS870S. True DSP transceiver. 100w Auti ATU, mint €1,299.00  
Icom IC746. HF+6m 100w all bands, Auti ATU, large screen, Boxed, mint €1,299.00  
Yaesu FT1000MP Mk V. 200w DSP with PSU. Last new one available €2,999.00  
Kenwood TS570D. DSP, Auto ATU, 100 watts. Very good condition. .... €899.00

## Shortwave Receivers

Icom ICR-75. 0-60 MHz all mode with DSP option. €749.00  
Icom ICR-75, same as above with DSP fitted. .... €799.00  
Icom IC-8500. Top class 0-2000 MHz all mode receiver, rare, used .... €1,499.00  
JRC NRD545DSP. Top of the range in SW Rxs. Read the reviews. Cost new €2,800. Now only €1,499.00  
AOR 7030. Award Winning Rx. Boxed, mint condx €749.00  
Yaesu FRG7700. Boxed and in good condition ... €199.00  
JRC NRD525. 0-30MHz. All mode. Mint condition €599.00  
Lowe HF250. Remote control version of above with some extras features. .... €499.00  
Sony ICF7600. Portable receiver with SSB or FM. Receive 76 - 108 MHz. .... €129.00

## VHF/UHF Transceivers

Yaesu FT736R Base station 2m/70cm with 6m fitted €999.00  
Kenwood TM241E 50 watt 2m mobile. No bracket/book €149  
Alinco DJ190 2m handheld with drop in charger .... €129.00  
Icom IC821H 2m/70cm 45/35w base multimode, Mint .. €899  
Kenwood TR751E, 2m SSB rig, 25 watts. .... €449.00  
Yaesu VX5R 6m, 2m, 70cm. 5 watt handheld with wide band receive, lithium ion battery. .... €289.00

## Limerick Show Specials. Cash & Carry. Must order in advance

850w Portable Generator. Ideal Field Days etc. €169.00  
RG213 Mil Spec Coax. 100m drum. .... Only €109.00  
Uniden 25w Marine VHF Radio. Scan Tri watch ... €179  
Maycom FR100. 66-512MHz, 150 mems... €99.00  
Bearcat BC-105XLT. 29-512MHz/gaps 1100 mems €119  
Watson 30/35A Twin meter Power Supply  
RRP €199.. Now €149

Kenwood TM271E. 60w, 2m mobile. Boxed, mint. €199.00  
Yaesu FT7800 Dualband 50/35w mobile, 1055 memories. CTCSS, DCS. €299.00  
Yaesu FT8800. True dualband. Rptr function. CTCSS .. €299.00  
Yaesu FT90. Micro dualbander with separation kit ... €299  
Kenwood TM733E. 50/45w full featured mobile €289.00  
Alinco DJV5. Dualband handheld, nicads, charger etc €199.00

Kenwood TH-F7E. Dualband handheld with 0 - 1300 MHz Receive with SSB ..... €275.00

## Scanning Receivers

Bearcat 780XLT, 25-1300 MHz, no gaps, trunk tracker, 500 memories, alpha tagging. Demo model. .... €349.00  
Yaesu VR-5000, 0 - 2600 MHz. All mode receiver. Boxed and in mint condition ..... €599.00  
AOR 8000. 0-1900 MHz. 1000 mems Nicads/Chgr €249.00  
AOR 8200. 0-2036 MHz. 1000 mems .. Nicads/Chgr €299.00  
AOR 8200. 0-2046 MHz. 1000 mems .Nicads/Chgr €349.00  
Fairhaven RD500VX, 0-1750 MHz, all mode, computer interface ..... €399.00  
Grundig SAT 800 B grade. One only .... €599.00  
Bearcat 220 XLT 66-956 MHz with gaps, 200 memories, Nicads and charger ..... €159.00  
Alinco DJ-X2000, 100 kHz to 2100 MHz, 2000 memories, frequency counter, digital recording, CTCSS decoder/tone scan, drop in charger. Cost €75.00 new, now €399.00  
Yaesu VR120, 0-1300 MHz, shirt pocket size scanner. €179

## Station Accessories

Watson W-30AM 30-35 Amp PSU with twin meters, volts and amps, 0-15v. .... €149.00  
West Mountain Radio Rigblaster Pro, all mode decoder, Demo model. .... €279.00  
Icom SP-20. Large base station speaker with filters €149.00  
Global AT2000 SWL ATU. .... €99.00  
MFJ 993 Auto ATU, latest model. .... €279.00  
Yaesu SP-8. Matching Speaker for FT920/1000MP €149.00  
We now stock the SBS-1 Virtual Radar .. €759.00

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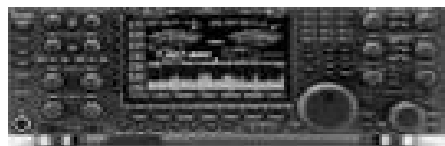
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